

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

September 6, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

We write to encourage the Department of Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to expeditiously facilitate negotiations between the Colorado River Basin States following the agency's June 2022 announcement that the basin states must reduce their Colorado River water use by an additional 2 to 4 million acre-feet in order to preserve the system.

We also call on the Department of Interior to clearly delineate the authority they believe they possess if the states cannot reach an agreement on their own and to update us on negotiations on water use with Mexico.

Arizona has already gone above and beyond to help solve the water shortage problem by leaving over 800,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead this year alone. Since 2014, Arizona has left over 2.5 million acre-feet, which has increased the elevation of Lake Mead by nearly 37 feet. Without Arizona's water conservation efforts, California would have been required to cut their water use for the very first time under the agreement made in the 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan.

It is now time for California and some of the other basin states to step up to the plate. Arizona cannot continue to shoulder the brunt of water reductions. We call on the Department of Interior to make these negotiations a priority. We also call on the Department of Interior to urge California to take water cuts that are in line with their water usage.

We look forward to seeing the negotiations proceed and look forward to a response letter from your department that addresses our concerns.

Sincerely,



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress